

2004 Accomplishments on Coulee Experimental Forest

- **Sustainable Forestry**

Coulee Exp. Forest certified “sustainable” with 8 other State Forests

Renewed Forest Service lease for research...15 years

Continued work on Aspen–Birch harvest, advertised but no bidders...redo sale with additional volume, drop off hard to reach sites along ski trail.

- **Wildlife Habitat**

Constructed trail below Berg Prairie for fire crew to access with water & tools, also serves as fire-line, rather than burn through woods on lower slope from the field.

Opened up trail across ravine on east side; reshaped ditch crossing, installed bigger culvert, set a DNR gate at Russlan Coulee Rd. entrance, seeded & mowed once

- Access to timber stands
- Hunter walking trail

Planned a work day with RGS on a habitat improvement project.

- **Recreation**

Met with Girl Scouts to plan ski trail sign improvements for a long term project.

Regraded ski trail surface in several portions where it was sloped or bermed on edge.

- **Public Safety & Property Maintenance**

Re-graveled Forest Road in rough spots, re-graveled main parking lot

Replaced west side parking lot posts & cable and re-graveled surfaces. Removed old posts in the way of town snowplow and mower.

Continued re-signing gates with R&W barrier signs.

New metal siding on research shed, cleaned up junk around it for mowing & maintenance

Work Plan _ 2005

- **Sustainable Forestry**

1. Aspen–Birch harvest...44 acres, 1000 cords

Purpose is to regenerate type on former pasture

2. Conifer Thinning harvest _ 2nd of three thinnings needed

Purpose is to keep stands healthy and growing _ trees ~ 30 yrs.

3. Identify timber stand improvement sites

Use timber harvest maps by year completed to find stands

4. Evaluate tree planting above erosion points

5. Forest inventory (recon) data update

CAR in certification, new software & GIS system

Work Plan _ 2005

- **Wildlife Habitat**

1. Prescribed burn of prairie sites _ maintain prairie vegetation
Berg Prairie burned earlier this spring (1/2 at a time)
Ridge Prairie burned in opposite years
2. Mow trails & field edges annually
Keep out invasive spp.
Provide hiking trails
Maintain ski trail
3. Sharecropping agreements _ 4# on 103.4 acres cropland
Monitor cropping plans...8 acres of standing corn '05
Evaluate wildlife use of corn left standing
4. Evaluate aspen/birch clearcut sites if cut in 2005
Focus on young stand establishment to complete the shift from
agricultural to forest soils

Work Plan _ 2005

- **Recreation**

- Ski Trail

1. Erosion control project...3 sites where FS funneled water to measure flow are cutting into ski trail

- Will repair below trail, regrade surface & seed down in May.

2. Signs & kiosk project

- Girl Scout project for 2005 to clarify trail in confusing places, construct kiosk with compromise design (they want log cabin)!

3. Hazard tree check

- Twice / year needed

- Always completed one time in fall when trail is mowed

Work Plan _ 2005

- **Public Safety & Property Maintenance**

1. Gate installation at quarry trail
2. Install barrier signs on gates

Continue this operation!

3. Maintain signs

ATV – Snowmobile – Target Shooting are prohibited

Comments & Questions

FS research on CEF...what was it about, still active?

Multiflora rose a problem on CEF? Control measures...?

Erosion on Russlan Coulee Rd. going over ridge at ski trail junction...this was presented as a statement of fact.

Can keep trails cleared of fallen more often for horse riders?

What is clearcutting and is that what has been done in the past of CEF?

Why can't I ride a snowmobile in CEF? How do the rules change?

Can I pick leftover corn in my sharecrop agreement if the animals didn't use it?